

of the back and upper tail-coverts of a lovely purple, changing into green on their edges and tips, in lieu of dark bronzy-purple; the band across the abdomen dark coppery-brown.

Total length, $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $1\frac{1}{4}$; wing, 8; tail, 14; tarsi, $1\frac{3}{4}$.

Hab. W. Africa: precise locality unknown.

December 9, 1856.—Dr. Gray, F.R.S., in the Chair.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF CHELODINA FROM
AUSTRALIA. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., ETC.

Mr. Stutchbury, who has recently returned from Australia, brought with him a series of animals which he collected during his geological researches.

In examining this collection with the intention of selecting those specimens which will be interesting additions to the very rich collection of Australian animals in the British Museum (including almost all the species described by Mr. Gould and other recent writers on the fauna of that continent), I was pleased to discover what appears to be a very distinct species of the Australian genus of Long-necked freshwater Tortoises (*Chelodina*).

To the description of this species I have added a short note on the peculiarities of two other species.

CHELODINA EXPANSA, n. s.

Shell oblong, rather depressed, broader behind, brown; plates thin, with short, narrow inosculating grooves; the margins flattened, expanded; the side of the back regularly convex; the lateral marginal plates rather broad, not revolute. The sternum flat, bluntly keeled on the sides, yellow. Head, neck and limbs dark olive above; chin, throat, and under side of the limbs whitish.

Shell, length 11, breadth 8 inches. Neck 8 inches long.

The young shell is like the adult, but the lateral margins are slightly revolute on the edges, though the plates are broad like those of the adult. The under side of the margin yellow, with a triangular black spot on the front edge of each shield; the dorsal shield thin, with three distant concentric grooves, with a rather rugose, moderate-sized areola; the areola of the costal plate subcentral; the areola of the first vertebral plate is subcentral, of the second, third, fourth and fifth vertebral plate on the middle of the hinder margin; the areola of the marginal plate is on the hinder outer margin. The front vertebral shield is large, and as broad as long; the others are much broader than long, the third being the shortest.

This species differs from *Chelodina longicollis*, *C. oblonga* and *C. Colliei*, in the generally expanded form, and especially in the breadth and non-revolution of the lateral margin, and in the side of the sternum not being so sharply keeled as in the two latter species.

It differs from *Chelodina sulcifera* in the membranous character of the shields, and also in the sternum being narrow in front, like

that of *C. oblonga* and *C. Colliei*, and not expanded and broader, as in *C. longicollis* and *C. sulcifera*.

CHELODINA LONGICOLLIS.

A fine shell of the adult animal of this species, larger than any I have hitherto received, was in the collection.

The shell is rather convex and swollen on the sides, with a deep, broad, rounded concavity along the centre of the second, third and fourth vertebral plate, about two-thirds the width of the plates. The black sutural lines on the sternum are narrow and uniform.

Length of the shell $8\frac{1}{2}$; width 6 inches.

CHELYMYS MACQUARIA.

Two adult specimens of this kind were also in the series. They are both much darker than the two specimens in the British Museum Collection. They are also peculiar for having a very distinct, deep, narrow, interrupted groove along the vertebral line, deepest and widest on the fourth vertebral plate. The discal shields are also marked with rather deep distinct radiating grooves, which are evidently indentations in the bones of the animal, only covered by the very thin skin-like shields.

Shell, length 11, breadth 8 inches.

ON SOME FISH FROM ASIA MINOR AND PALESTINE. BY SIR JOHN RICHARDSON, C.B., F.R.S. L. & ED. ETC.

Through the kindness of Dr. Gray of the British Museum, I have been permitted to examine a small collection of Fish made by H. Poole, Esq., in Palestine and Asia Minor. Though they do not present to the ichthyologist any novel generic forms, they are interesting on account of the localities in which they were found.

CYPRINODON HAMMONIS, Cuv. et Val. xviii. 169.

This small fish was taken in a marshy spot, on the immediate beach of the Dead Sea, at Usdum, the supposed site of Sodom. The marsh, which contained some very small puddles of salt-water in which the fish were swimming, and from whence they were scooped out with ease by the hands, is fed by a saline spring which issues somewhat higher up, and is so little above the level of the sea, that Mr. Poole believed that the fish were washed into the pools by the waves. The opinion that the exhalations of the Dead Sea are immediately fatal to animal life, and that not even a bird can fly over it, has long been exploded. One of Mr. Poole's companions bathed in it daily with impunity, and even fancied that in diving he had discovered the remains of a ruined city under its waters, opposite to Usdum. Mr. Poole also observed ducks diving in it, and concluded, justly we think, that they must have found something edible to induce them to repeat that act, which they did frequently.

Lieut. Lynch of the U. S. Navy examined the water of the Dead